

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND E-GOVERNMENT**

**Secretary General  
Vassilios Andronopoulos  
Welcome Address**

**Athens, 11 November 2008**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you to Greece and thank you, on this occasion, for your generous offer of services to this worthy development cause. I hardly need to tell you how critical good governance and public service reform have now become. We have heard it from my Minister, Professor Prokopis Pavlopoulos. We have read it in the literature, but the financial crisis, which is upon us, has brought it all once more in sharp relief. We need to take to heart what we have heard before: “Economy and efficiency” and “doing more with less”.

E-government, good governance and ICT (information communication technologies) open the way, which leads to more effective government at lesser cost. It is a key objective of the Department of Government of which I have the honor to be in charge. During the past few years, we have made giant strides in using e-technology for work simplification, speedier communication, closer coordination and better service delivery to citizens at large.

Under the Minister’s leadership, the Government Department which is your Counterpart and Partner in this Project has also made progress in public service reform. Our mandate and our motto have been “Public Service Reform with a Human Face”. Needless for me to tell you that public service reform is a complex and delicate task, precisely on account of human needs and hopes, ambitions and expectations that this reform may affect.

We have learned over the years, often the hard way, from carrying out the tasks of public service reform, improving service delivery, streamlining procedures and processes through use of e-technology at certainly reduced costs, but also reinforcing transparency and accountability at all levels of the government and public service.

In other words, our projects and strategic objectives converge with yours, to a great extent. They offer an excellent basis for close cooperation. We Greeks, your counterparts, are eager to share and look to this new Project as a constructive framework for close cooperation. We look to you as partners and colleagues with similar goals.

My country and the countries which you represent – the countries which the Project is slated to serve – have close historic ties. These, hopefully will prove a useful starting point for programmatic efforts in fields which BRC has designated as demand-driven mandates for this Project and Centre. Our Project is spread over a period of five (5) years. We have through 2013 to make our mark as a Project and place RCPAR on the map of this great Region.

The Project and our Government depend on you to achieve this. You are high-level specialists, who know the region well. Success in our common endeavour will very much depend on the quality of advice that RCPAR receives from you; the guidance that you give it; the criticism you offer.

As the Greek counterpart to RCPAR and BRC, I feel that I am voicing a shared concern in asking all of you to be open and be frank. Avoiding costly errors, which we all know too well, demands no less of you.

I am told that you have come to organize your work as an Advisory Board. The Government of Greece is here to help you, because like UNDP/BRC, it has a stake in your success.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all very much.